



BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2014

Approved: June 2, 2014

PRESENT: Vincent Amoroso, Chair; Robert Stemple, Clerk; Les Fox, Member; Raid Suleiman, Member and Jim Gorman, Member

ALSO PRESENT: Selina Shaw, Town Administrator and Cheryl Mahoney, Department Assistant

The documents discussed herein have been included with the file copy of the agenda packet for the above referenced date and are hereby incorporated by reference.

Chair Amoroso called the meeting to order at 7:32 P.M. in the Grange Meeting Room of Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Amoroso read the announcements.

APPOINTMENTS

• Jennifer Benson, State Representative, 37th Middlesex District and James Eldridge, State Senator, Middlesex & Worcester District were present to provide updates on legislative activities and to respond to any concerns. Some members of the public were present. Senator Eldridge spoke to the informational materials on legislative activities that he handed out. 1% of State's budget is to be dedicated to environmental concerns. He has been working House Bill dealing with – Regionalization/local option and a Senate Bill concerning water/waste water development the intention is to increase availability of state loan & grants and incorporate green incentives. They have also been working on a Transportation Bond– \$13,000,000 as the number proposed, with the intent of moving forward with numerous construction projects that have been delayed because of funding delays. Rep. Benson reviewed her current legislative assignments. She advised that House budget has come out and there are 900 amendments by the current count. She addressed the concern as to the decrease of Chapter 70 funding in the proposed budget. Rep. Benson advised that this re-allocation is due to a significant acceleration of funding health & human services and in addressing the State's increasing OPEB obligation. Sen. Eldridge interjected that the Chapter 70 funding metric has been in place since the 1970s and needs updating. There was discussion on Senate Bill 2021 - water/waste water infrastructure development and related programs such as MassWorks. There was discussion on the Community Preservation Act related Articles; the State's obligation & funding of CPA and the recent amendments to the CPA. Sen. Eldridge confirmed that the Senate is committed to retaining the current 52% match for FY 15. Recent amendments now make CPA more attractive to cities with a component focused on revitalizing/improving urban parklands/open spaces. There was discussion on the efforts by the State to support the regionalization of services. Several road blocks/hindrances that have now been removed by the legislator making it easier for communities to develop regionalized services. There was discussion on the status of Chapter 90 – Transportation funding. Communities were disappointed by the State's Chapter 90 funding in FY 14, however recently there was an increase to Ch. 90 allocations. The Transportation Bill currently under review focuses primarily on roadways project. There was also discussion on the other State programs to assist with local initiatives such as CrossTownConnect which received Community Innovation Program funding.

The Board took Agenda Item #7a, out of order.

NEW BUSINESS

• The Selectmen took up a Reserve Fund Transfer to the Historical Commission budget for the repair to the Museum chimney. At FinCom suggestion this item is being removed as a warrant article as it can be funded with a RFT. Chair Amoroso moved to forward to the Finance Committee for approval the request to transfer \$6,000 from the Reserve Fund to account #001-691-5200-5242, Historical Comm. Building Repairs and Maintenance. Seconded by Member Suleiman. **Approved 5-0.**

APPOINTMENTS (Continued)

• DPW Director, Tom Garmon was present to discuss DPW's proposed road improvement projects. Dir. Garmon spoke to the materials provided in the agenda packet. Tonight's discussion is the first step in this process. He is looking to bundle all of the proposed roadway projects into one bid package. Based on pre-bid estimates received he puts this season's work projects at around \$1,000,000. However, he qualified that these estimates do not factor in potential engineering costs. There are three

roadways of particular concern: Reed Farm, Pine Hill and Flagg Hill Roads. The 1st priority is rebuilding the pavement on Reed Farm Road. He anticipates breaking ground in June/July. They would be bringing it all the way down to the raw surface (appx. 10 inches) and rebuilding it up. Just Reed Farm Road would be done this spring not the feed roads (Blanchard & Inches Brook). He anticipates implementing the same process for the Flagg Hill Road repairs. Dir. Garmon further advised that the Town received notice from MassDOT, last week, that there is \$32,000 available for repairs due for winter wear & tear. There was discussion about creating a roadway restoration/maintenance plan.

- Members of Blanchard PTF, Karen Argento and Kathy Luce were present to discuss allowing Public Safety vehicle ride-alongs for PTF fundraisers. This discussion is a follow up to a request introduced by Argento and Luce at the March 31st Selectmen's meeting. There was a review of that discussion and the formal proposal that the PTF provided. Luce advised that it was her understanding that the regional school district's PTFs operate independently at the individual schools and any funds would work for the benefit of the students attending just the Blanchard. This would not change due to the regionalization. Member Stemple moved to approve the use of public safety vehicles for ride-alongs for the Blanchard PTF Fundraiser as follows:

Police cruiser, to provide one ride to school

Fire engine, to provide one ride to school

Fire engine, to provide one ride in Fifer's Day parade

provided that the parents/guardians of the participants complete release of claims, indemnity and hold harmless agreement and agree to comply with safety guidelines to be provided by the Chiefs. Seconded by Member Suleiman. **Approved 5-0.**

- Recreation Commission Co-Chair, Kevin Lehner, and AtBats' Ken Morse were present to discuss AtBats' request for reduced field permit fee for their summer program and the field permitting system. When field permit fees were implemented two years ago, Morse had approached the Town about allowing him to provide a percentage of the fees generated from the program rather than paying the fixed fees in the schedule. This seems to have worked out well, providing recreational opportunities for the kids in town, generating income for him; while still being able to compensate the Town for the use of the fields. The Recreation Commission recommended approval of this percentage fee structure in 2012 & 2013 and has reiterated this recommendation for 2014. Morse provided information on the programs he offers and how he manages the use of the fields. There was also discussion on the general conditions of the fields, how and what organizations are using the fields since the field permit program was implemented. There was discussion about researching the fee schedules in other communities besides Acton to see if the schedule or policies should be revised. Further to the recommendation of the Recreation Commission, Member Suleiman moved to approve Ken Morse's request to use Liberty Field to operate the AtBats Half Day Baseball & Softball Camp for a reduced fee of 12% of gross revenue. Seconded by Member Gorman. **Approved 5-0.**

- Town Accountant, Jennifer Barrett we present to discuss FY 2013 audit report. It was noted that the auditors had completed their review of FY 13 four month prior to Barrett coming to work for the Town. Barrett explained that the Treasurer role is fund management & human resource/personnel concerns; the Town Accountant's role is to track spending. The Town is carrying just over a \$1,000,000 surplus as the end of FY 14 approaches and we maintain our triple A bond rating. Barrett spoke to several items that were identified in the report that may need to be reviewed. Barrett agreed with the suggestion of implementing quarterly tracking of revenues. There was discussion on the funding of the STM/ATM articles, such as OPEB. At this time Barrett feels that the Town is managing these responsibilities covered by the audit adequately and nothing significantly different needs to be done going forward.

- No one asked to speak under the Citizens concerns.

MINUTES

- The Selectmen passed over approval of the March 24, 2014 regular session minutes.
- Chair Amoroso moved to accept the minutes for the executive session, March 17, 2014, and March 31, 2014, as written. Seconded by Member Fox. **Approved 5-0.**

SELECTMEN REPORTS

- Member Gorman reported that he will be meeting with the Fire Chief on his contract on Wednesday.

He also reported that he will be attending the next meeting of the Historical Commission regarding siting the war memorial.

- Chair Amoroso reported that he and Member Fox had attended a meeting of Minuteman School District stakeholders to discuss pending revisions to Regional Agreement. Most of those present were from the smaller sending towns. He provided background on some of the town meeting actions, within the district, concerning this article. Lincoln passed over action and the Wayland Town Meeting moved to reject the revisions and to withdraw from district; effectively vetoing the revised agreement. There is currently effort being made to ask Wayland to reconsider. It has been put forth that if the revisions are not adopted the building

can not be renovated. The question for Boxborough is how do we move forward? If Boxborough wants to withdraw we want to give voters a greater range of options. We have been urged to approve the amendments. We may want to pass over rejecting the revisions. We still have the 2nd article - Withdrawal. Boxborough and Weston are the last towns to take this up. Needham Selectman Dan Matthews has proposed a non-binding resolution that member towns would not oppose others seeking withdrawal. Amoroso discussed the pros/cons ratifying this non-binding resolution. Specifically, approving this resolution would give voters greater latitude when Town Meeting comes around in May, putting Boxborough in a better position to negotiate withdrawal. The “unknown” factor in this whole process is the DESE’s position on withdrawal. There was discussion on the withdrawal process under the existing agreement and the proposed revisions. Ratifying this resolution allows us options. Chair Amoroso moved to adopt the resolution drafted by Needham Selectman Dan Matthews. Seconded by Member Fox. **Approved 5-0.**

- Member Suleiman reported that the EnCom discussed the Town Hall insulation warrant article and the “Solarization” movement initiated last year in Harvard & Wayland. They are preparing a survey for residents to see if educational forums should be held.
- Member Fox reported that the Housing Board is making good use of the IMA housing consultant. They will be coming back before BHB in May.

OLD BUSINESS

- There was discussion on Special/Annual Town Meeting. Though there would be an additional cost, it was determined that the ATM broadcast would be live again this year. Also the Moderator has proposed that the CPA and Minuteman Articles be moved to the 2nd night. There was discussion as to the pros/cons and the consensus was to approve the Moderator’s proposal.

NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

- Member Fox moved to approve the parade permits for the Memorial Day and Fifer’s Day parades, to be held on Monday, May 26, 2014 and Saturday, June 21 2014, respectively, and to waive any applicable fees. Seconded by Member Stemple. **Approved 5-0.**
- The Selectmen took up the acceptance of a deed for Conservation Land (Gunderson property, Lot 6, off Depot Road) Member Gorman moved to approve the acceptance of the parcel shown as Lot 6 on L.C. Plan No 42703C from Cynthia Wells, personal representative of the Estate of Leslie E. Gunderson to the Town of Boxborough, acting by and through its Conservation Commission, contingent upon the Commission’s acceptance of the parcel at its April 16th meeting. Seconded by Member Fox. **Approved 5-0.**
- The Selectmen reviewed their proposed meeting schedule for period June 2014 – January 2015. Chair Amoroso moved to adopt the proposed schedule as written. Seconded by Member Stemple. **Approved 5-0.**
- The Selectmen reviewed their FY 2014 Goals and discuss the status of several items and the placement of some items on upcoming agendas.

CORRESPONDENCE

- The Selectmen discussed LELWD Director Davos’ retirement after 32 years of service.
- The Selectmen also discussed that MassDOT notification regarding the \$32,000 additional assistance for winter roadway restoration, mentioned earlier.

CONCERNS OF THE BOARD

- The status of the proposed A-B Regional School District IMA and MoU was reviewed. The negotiating team is meeting the morning of April 28th to prepare presentation for the Selectmen that evening. Materials were distributed as a read ahead for discussion at the April 28th Selectmen’s meeting.
- TA Shaw reported that 19 resumes were received for the Town Planner position. The review team has identified 5 potential candidates. Interviews will be conducted this week.
- As Tuesday is the one year anniversary of the Marathon Bombing, Chair Amoroso asked for a moment of silence to recognize the efforts of all, including public safety, health services and the general public during the tragedy and the ensuing days.

ADJOURN

- At 9:52 PM, Chair Amoroso moved to adjourn. Seconded by Member Stemple. **Approved 5-0.**